



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Workforce Programs

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Stephen M. Dow
Employment Support Unit
Workforce Policy Development Section

BWP OPERATIONS MEMO

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Non W-2 ☐ **W-2** ☒ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: High

SUBJECT: BUDGET BILL CHANGES
1. STUDENT FINANCIAL AIDS DISREGARD
2. EMPLOYER SPONSORED TRAINING IN CSJ AND W-2 T
PLACEMENTS

CROSS REFERENCE: *W-2 Manual*

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2001

PURPOSE

This memo alerts you to 2 new policy provisions introduced under 2001 Wisconsin Act 16 (the "Biennial Budget Bill"). As the Act was published 08/31/2001, these changes became effective September 1.

DISREGARDED INCOME

2001 Wisconsin Act 16, Section 1660hb, amends § 49.145(3)(b)1, Wis. Stats., by adding to the list of disregarded income "any student financial aid received under any federal or state program, any scholarships used for tuition and books...".

A W-2 agency must not count any student financial aid received under any **state** education program or **federal** education program, including any scholarships used for tuition or books, in determining the 115 percent gross income test. This expands the disregard beyond the current disregard of all aid received under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (PL 89-329).

The *W-2 Manual*, Chapter 3, now only lists aid received under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Chapter 3 will be revised to add this expanded disregard.

ALLOWABLE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2001 Wisconsin Act 16, Sections 1660jk and 1660jv amends § 49.147(4)(am) and § 49.147(5), Wis. Stats., respectively, by adding to the list of permissible education and training activities "employer-sponsored training."

Participants in Community Service Job and W-2 Transition positions may be required to participate in education and training activities assigned as part of an Employability Plan. CSJ participants can be assigned up to 10 hours per week of education and training activities, unless aggregated, and W-2 T participants can be assigned up to 12 hours per week of education and training activities.

Education and training activities permitted within the 10 or 12 hours may include only the following:

1. A course of study meeting the standards established under § 115.29(4), Wis. Stats., for the granting of a declaration of equivalency of high school graduation.
2. Technical college courses and other educational courses that provide an employment skill.
3. Employer-sponsored training.
4. English-as-a-Second Language (ESL).
5. Adult basic education courses.

Example: Dawn, who is a CSJ participant, is assigned to work activities at the school district's bus and vehicle garage. The work site supervisor includes a 3-month course on machinery detail as part of Dawn's CSJ placement. Dawn attends the course 6 hours a week. The FEP includes those 6 hours per week Dawn spends in class in her education and training activities.

CONTACT

DES CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

Email: carpolcc@dwd.state.wi.us
Phone: 608-261-6317 (Option #1)
Fax: 608-266-8358

Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.